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May 27.

Mr. Arthur Erwin Brown, Vice-President, in the Chair.

Seventeen persons present.

Papers under the following titles were presented for publication :

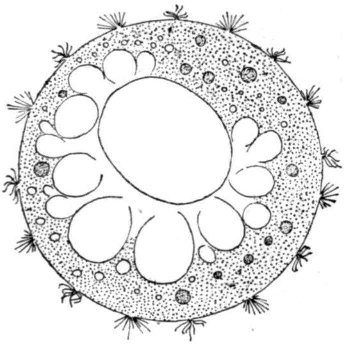
" The Mollusca of the Mount Mitchell Region," by Henry A. Pilsbry and Bryant Walker.

" Synopsis of the American Martens," by Samuel N. Rhoads.

The deaths of Ferdinand J. Dreer, a member, on the 25th inst., and of Henri Filhol, a correspondent, were announced.

A Peculiar Heliozoan.—Mr. Howard Crawley remarked that the heliozoan here figured was found on August 8, 1900, in water taken from a stagnant, spring-fed pool, near Wyncote, Pa.

The animal was almost perfectly spherical and showed no alteration in form while under observation. Its diameter was about 90 microns. Around the central part of the body there was an irregular whorl of large alveoli, and, in addition, a number of elements which may have been either small alveoli or large colorless granules. There was no distinction between cortex and medulla, the whorl of alveoli lying in a cytoplasmic matrix, uniform throughout. This matrix was colorless and granular, and closely resembled the endosarc of an *Amœba.* Within it was a diatom which still showed a little colored substance, and a number of more or less completely digested plant spores.



Occupying a slightly excentric position was a large vesicle, having the form of an ellipsoid. The contents of this vesicle were perfectly homogeneous under a magnification of 370 diameters, and of a very pale-green color. It was probably a food-ball.

From the surface of the animal arose a number of minute protoplasmic processes. These occurred in clusters, which were separated from each other by approximately the same distance as that which ordinarily separates the typical heliozoan pseudopodia. It was further to be observed that at the points from which these clusters arose there were breaks in the continuity of the animal's contour, such as those which are seen at the point where a pseudopodium arises.

Two conditions which these clusters presented are illustrated in the figure. In the one case, the processes were stiff, straight and motionless; in the other, they exhibited lashing movements, each separate process acting independently of the others of the same cluster. These two conditions passed readily the one into the other, the processes of a given cluster being at one moment motionless and the next in motion. In the figure, these two conditions are shown as occurring alternately, but this division is purely arbitrary.

In addition to these two, a third condition was observed. At frequent intervals the processes of a number of clusters became animated by a common impulse and exhibited a ciliary movement. All the processes of perhaps one hemisphere of the protozoan lashed or beat vigorously in the same direction, causing a rapid rotation of the body and a progression from one place to another. This phenomenon was seen a number of times, and in each case the activity appeared to involve the processes of only one side of the body at once. It was impossible, however, to determine whether or not this was always the same side.

The presence within this animal of a partly digested diatom seems to warrant regarding it as belonging to the Rhizopoda (Sarcodina). The spherical form and alveolar protoplasm furnish reasons for considering it a heliozoan. Of the several genera of fresh-water Heliozoa, it comes closest to *Actinophrys*. The signification of the curious phenomena observed is problematical, but the observation appears to be worthy of record in that it shows the readiness with which pseudopodia and flagella may change into each other.

Mr. G. B. Boulenger, of London, was elected a correspondent.

The following were ordered to be printed: